

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 19-22 were previously cancelled. Claims 12-18 are withdrawn from consideration in view of a restriction requirement. Claims 1-11 are amended. No new matter is added. Please note that support for the amendment to claim 2 may be found, for example, in Paragraph 12 of the instant application (referring to the publication). Also, note that claims 12 and 14 have been converted from 'use' claims to 'method' claims and should be considered with claims 1-11.

§112 Rejection

Claim 1 was rejected under §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner pointed out that the claim includes nested ranges. Please note that these have been removed from claim 1, as well as, from claims 4-8. This rejection is now overcome.

\$103 Rejection

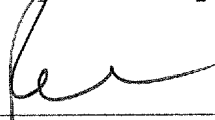
Claims 1-11 were rejected as unpatentable over GB1422177 (GB'177) or EP0476560 (EP'560) or US4154919 (Sheratte) in view of US4535144 (Choe). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The claims have been redrafted to method claims from product claims. Therefore, the rejection is now moot in view of the claim amendments.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully request an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert H. Hammer III
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 31,764

Customer No. 29494
Hammer & Associates, P.C.
3125 Springbank Lane
Suite G
Charlotte, NC 28226
Telephone: 704-927-0400
Facsimile: 704-927-0485

F:\2006\091\Amendment103009.doc